



**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**May 17, 2007**

**For immediate release**

- 1. DNR launches database offering stream use assessment reports**
- 2. Watershed Quality Planning Task Force to meet May 24; meeting open to public**
- 3. DNR enforcement actions**

## **DNR LAUNCHES DATABASE OFFERING STREAM USE ASSESSMENT REPORTS**

**MEDIA CONTACT: Adam Schnieders at (515) 281-7409.**

DES MOINES — As the DNR assesses Iowa streams in an effort to bring Iowa's water quality standards towards compliance with the federal Clean Water Act, it is posting reports in a new online database.

The database, located on the DNR Web site at [www.iowadnr.gov/water/uaa.html](http://www.iowadnr.gov/water/uaa.html), offers maps, proposed use designations and other information on selected streams and stream segments throughout the state. Streams are added to the database as fieldwork is completed and information becomes available.

“Use designations are one part of our state's water quality standards. They categorize water bodies by what's capable of happening in the stream – recreation, a home for aquatic life, or both,” said Adam Schnieders, a DNR environmental specialist working on the reports.

The database houses reports, called Use Assessment and Use Attainability Analyses (UA/UAA), that are part of the DNR's step-by-step process to gather site-specific field data on stream features and uses.

Under new water quality rules, the DNR presumes that all perennial streams and rivers, or those that flow year-round, should receive the highest designations for recreational and aquatic life uses.

“Assuming that all our streams should be protected for swimming and fishing places a high value on our streams. It also ensures the safety of Iowans that use our streams, and the aquatic life that live in our streams,” said Rich Leopold, director of the DNR.

“Assessing these streams is in the best interest of our citizens, our natural resources and our state’s infrastructure.”

After completing field assessments, the DNR reviews available information to determine if the “presumed” recreational and aquatic life uses are appropriate for individual streams. It then prepares the UA/UAA report and places it in the database, where it is available for public viewing. Reports will be added to the database throughout 2007.

Information is currently available for about 40 streams, including:

- Wapsinonoc Creek (Muscatine County)
- Yankee Run (Clinton, Cedar counties)
- Sugar Creek (Poweshiek, Jasper counties)
- Linn Creek (Marshall County)
- Mill Creek (Johnson County)
- Brush Creek (Henry, Jefferson counties)
- Beaver Creek (Polk, Boone counties)
- Middle Fork Grand River (Ringgold County)
- The Winnebago River
- The Skunk River

*Writer: Jessie Brown*

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## **WATERSHED QUALITY PLANNING TASK FORCE TO MEET MAY 24; MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC**

**MEDIA CONTACT: Sharon Tahtinen at (515) 281-7066.**

DES MOINES — A committee appointed by the Iowa Legislature to discuss a voluntary statewide water quality program has set a meeting for Thursday, May 24 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Watershed Quality Planning Task Force will meet at the Metro Waste Authority, 300 E. Locust St., #100, in Des Moines.

Additional information is available on the DNR Web site at [www.iowadnr.gov/water/taskforce/](http://www.iowadnr.gov/water/taskforce/).

The Iowa Legislature called for creation of the committee during the last session.

Specifically, the legislature is asking the committee to develop a report containing recommendations on the following issues:

- Improving water quality
- Creating economic incentives for environmental compliance
- Facilitating implementation efforts
- Developing quantifiable protocols and procedures
- Providing greater flexibility through community-based, non-regulatory, performance-driven watershed management planning.

The committee is comprised of representatives from both houses and both parties of the Legislature, Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities, Iowa League of Cities, Iowa Association of Business and Industry, Iowa Water Pollution Control Association, Iowa Rural Water Association, Growing Green Communities, Iowa Environmental Council, Iowa Farm Bureau, Iowa Corn Growers Association, Iowa Soybean Association, Iowa Pork Producers Association, Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Iowa, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the Iowa Conservation Alliance.

The committee meeting is open to the public.

*Writer: Jessie Brown*

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## **DNR ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS**

**MEDIA CONTACT: Jessie Brown at (515) 281-5131.**

DES MOINES — The DNR took the following enforcement actions in April and May 2007, unless otherwise noted. The following are only briefs; please contact Jessie Brown of the DNR for more information at (515) 281-5131.

Enforcement actions, including copies of the original orders and contact information, are now available on the DNR's Web site at [www.iowadnr.gov/legal/eactions.html](http://www.iowadnr.gov/legal/eactions.html). The web listing will begin with orders first taken in 2007.

### **Administrative Orders**

Responsible parties have 30 days to appeal the order or 60 days to pay the penalty.

#### **Woodbury County**

- Goldsmith and Son, Inc., John E. Goldsmith and Patti R. Goldsmith, all of Sergeant Bluff; and J&G Pallet, LLC, of Sioux City, were issued a unilateral administrative order to cease the unauthorized discharge of truck wash wastewater to the current wastewater disposal system and to remove the current unauthorized

disposal system. The parties were assessed a \$10,000 penalty. The administrative order is in regard to wastewater violations at a truck wash site in Sergeant Bluff.

### **Consent Orders**

A consent order is issued as an alternative to issuing an administrative order. A consent order indicates that the DNR has voluntarily entered into a legally enforceable agreement with the other party.

#### **Carroll County**

- Rahn Eischeid, of Carroll, agreed in a consent order to develop and implement appropriate manure controls at his feedlot, submit a plan of action to the DNR and pay a \$5,000 penalty. The consent order is in regard to a manure discharge from his open cattle feedlot to Brushy Creek in Carroll County. Eischeid has made the improvements to his facility and paid the penalty.

#### **Hamilton County**

- Jewell Implement Co., of Jewell, agreed in a consent order to cease all open burning and open dumping, develop a solid waste management plan and to pay a \$1,000 penalty. The consent order is in regard to solid waste and air quality violations at a site in Jewell. The penalty has been paid.

### **Consent Amendments**

A consent amendment is issued in settlement of a previous administrative order or to amend a pre-existing consent order. A consent amendment indicates that the DNR has voluntarily entered into a legally enforceable agreement with the other party.

#### **Carroll County**

- The City of Manning agreed in a consent amendment to a new compliance schedule for improvements to its wastewater treatment plant and to pay a \$100 per day penalty if deadlines are not met. This amends a 2005 administrative order regarding wastewater violations.
- West Central Cooperative, of Ralston, agreed in a consent amendment to change the recipient of its \$5,000 Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) to the Carroll County Conservation Board (CCCB). The SEP will be used to fund \$500 grants to private landowners in Carroll County for construction of wetlands to improve water quality and provide wildlife habitat. This amends a 2006 administrative order regarding wastewater violations. The SEP has been paid to the CCCB for the projects.

#### **Chickasaw County**

- The City of Lawler agreed in a consent amendment to settle an outstanding penalty from a 2004 administrative order with a Supplemental Environmental

Project (SEP). The city will reseal a block of sewer main in 2007 at an estimated cost of \$11,900. The amendment was agreed upon in March.

**Clinton County**

- The City of Goose Lake agreed in a consent amendment to pay a \$500 penalty. This amends a 2004 administrative order regarding water supply violations. The amendment was agreed upon in March.

**Hardin County**

- The City of Iowa Falls agreed in a consent amendment to settle an outstanding penalty from a 2004 administrative order with a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) and a \$2,500 penalty. The city will improve its wastewater control system to prevent or detect bypassing at the city's wastewater treatment facilities. The proposed improvements are intended to be in excess of the DNR's normal requirements for control systems, with an estimated cost of \$10,250. The \$2,500 penalty has been paid.

**Page County**

- The City of Shenandoah agreed in a consent amendment to a new compliance schedule for constructing a wastewater treatment plant and to pay a \$300 per day penalty if deadlines are not met. This amends a 2002 administrative order regarding wastewater violations. The amendment was agreed upon in March.

**Ringgold, Clarke, Union Counties**

- Southern Waste Handling, Inc., of Mount Ayr, agreed in a consent amendment to comply with minimum manure control, manure release reporting and manure applicator requirements, and to pay a \$5,000 penalty. This amends a 2003 administrative order regarding manure application violations in Union County from a confinement operation in Clarke County. The amendment was agreed upon in March.

*Writer: Jessie Brown*